

the importance of agriculture inspired him to donate his time and resources to the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association, serving as state president and national secretary. He was also a member of the Colorado Livestock Association and Colorado Corn Growers Association. Throughout the years, he has won various awards for his commitment to agriculture, and even appeared in a Coors television commercial.

Despite Mr. Markham's accomplishments within his community, he is most proud to hold the title farmer. Mr. Markham is the owner of M&M Farms, where he has spent countless days growing Rocky Mountain Barley for Coors Brewing Company.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Bill Markham. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bill Markham for his accomplishments.

HONORING OAKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL AS FUTURE CITY FINALISTS

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the students of Oakwood Middle School, finalists in the Future City competition.

Each year, more than 40,000 students from 1,350 schools across the country compete in the Future City competition, which challenges students to create futuristic cities and solve sustainability issues within the city. Thirty-four eighth-grade students from Oakwood Middle School in Canton, Ohio participated in this year's competition under the guidance of their teacher, Ms. Vanessa Board.

This year's competition tasked the students to create an efficient, eco-friendly city set 100 years in the future. These talented students used their knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to create the city of Skotgeta, an Icelandic city powered by geothermal energy, which harnesses sustainable natural resources and utilizes technology to cure cancer. Their hard work earned them First Place at the regional competition and qualified them to compete in the national Future City competition.

The achievements of these students demonstrate the same ingenuity and determination of other Ohioans like Neil Armstrong, Thomas Edison, and the Wright Brothers. I am confident in the future of our nation when Oakwood Middle School's Future City team represents the next generation of American leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this accomplishment is a testament to the students and their teacher's dedication to academic excellence. I am proud of each of these individuals, and I wish them much success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2017, I missed four votes as a result of personal illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 609, YES on H.R. 512, YES on H.R. 244, YES on H.R. 974.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (SFC) WILLIAM C. SPILLERS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) William C. Spillers who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 17, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SFC Spillers died of a non-combat related injury in Baghdad, Iraq.

SFC Spillers worked at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Jackson, MS. He was assigned to the 230th Finance Detachment, 15th Finance Battalion, 13th Finance Group, Jackson, MS. Twenty-one members of his unit were mobilized in May 2006. They arrived in Iraq in August 2006.

SFC Spillers, a Terry, MS native, was described by Major General Harold Cross as a model soldier who was always attentive to his duties, Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. At the time of SFC Spillers's death, at least 47 soldiers or sailors with Mississippi ties had died in action since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SFC Spillers devoted his life as a full-time soldier in service to our nation. He is survived by his parents Robert E. Spillers and Sharon Johnson, his wife Kim, his daughter Hailey, and sons Daniel and Myles.

BOOSTING RATES OF AMERICAN VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 974, "Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act." "BRAVE Act" authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to give preference to companies with high concentrations of veteran employees when awarding VA contracts.

I support this bipartisan bill because it provides an incentive to companies to actively hire veterans.

H.R. 974 will spur the hiring of veterans into coveted positions within large government contractors.

The BRAVE Act also gives the VA authority to debar contracting for at least five years of any company determined to have willfully and

intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of its employees.

One of the biggest problems facing our veterans right now is finding good jobs in civilian life, especially those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our veterans have received the best training in the world.

They have unique skills and experience that cannot be acquired anywhere but in the United States military.

They have what it takes to excel in the civilian workforce; they do not need charity, just opportunity.

With this bill, we urge private companies to hire highly-trained, highly-skilled veterans who know how to get the job done, whatever job it may be.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 974.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL WEBSTER

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Webster on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Webster has had a tremendous impact on agriculture in Colorado. He started Webster Land and Cattle Company at a young age and managed the company for over thirty years. After his retirement, Mr. Webster served in the Colorado State Legislature and as the Weld County Commissioner at Large. He has continuously been a leader in his community, serving on multiple boards and participating in various organizations. Today he is involved in the Greeley Rotary Club, T-Bone Club, First Congregational Church, and the American Legion.

In addition to being a leader in his community, Mr. Webster served his country for two years in the United States Army. After his many years of public service, Mr. Webster returned to Colorado State University to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. Mr. Bill Webster has set an exceptional example of leadership and public service, and it is a great honor to call him a dear friend and my father-in-law.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Bill Webster. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bill Webster for his accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to my attendance at the White House for the signing ceremony for H.J. Res. 41 on Tuesday, February 14,